

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 02062 200910Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CCO-00 PASO-00 AGRE-00

CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05

SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 SP-02 SOE-02

OMB-01 DOE-15 /131 W

-----059445 200913Z /10

P R 200732Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2743

INFO USDOC WAHSDC

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS CANBERRA 2062

USMTN

ALSO FOR STATE EB/OT/TA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, AS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS ON AUSTRALIAN TIMBER IMPORTS

REF: (A) CANBERRA 00298, (B) 77 CANBERRA 8603 (BOTH NOTAL)

TO: MR. EDWARD TUTTELL

PATRICK LUMBER COMPANY

P.O. BOX 4726

PORTLAND, OREGON

TELEX: 360336

REFERENCE: CANBERRA 298 AND CANBERRA 8603

1. DRAFT REPORT OF INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED RECOMMENDING DUTY BE INCREASED TO 15 PERCENT ON IMPORTS OF NORTH AMERICAN TIMBER SPECIES. THERE WILL BE A UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CANBER 02062 200910Z

HEARING APRIL 5 IN CANBERRA FOR INTERESTED PARTIES TO COMMENT ON DRAFT REPORT.

2. EMBASSY DOES NOT YET HAVE COPY OF DRAFT REPORT, INITIAL PRINTING HAVING BEEN EXHAUSTED SHORTLY AFTER RELEASE. FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH CANADIAN EMBASSY AND WITH WEYERHAUSER AUSTRALIA, WE UNDERSTAND THAT REPORT CONCEDES THAT IMPORTS ARE NOT

THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF INDUSTRY'S CURRENT DISTRESS BUT THAT DUTY INCREASE IS RECOMMENDED NEVERTHELESS. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS ASAP.

3. WEYERHAUSER WILL MAKE PRESENTATION ON APRIL 5, AND EMBASSY WOULD RECOMMEND THAT ALL MEMBERS OF PACIFIC LUMBER EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION WITH LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES DO THE SAME. IF SUBMISSION COULD BE MADE BY ONE OF THESE MEMBER FIRMS ON BEHALF OF PACIFIC LUMBER EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION, THIS SHOULD ALSO BE DONE.

4. TO REPEAT WHAT HAS BEEN SAID EARLIER, BECAUSE OF QUESTIONS RELATING TO DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND SUBMISSION OF TESTIMONY UNDER OATH, EMBASSY IS NOT IN A POSITION TO ITSELF TESTIFY BEFORE INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION. CANADIAN EMBASSY, WHICH SHARES WITH U.S. A MAJOR INTEREST IN THESE PRODUCTS AND WITH WHICH WE ARE COORDINATING CLOSELY, IS IN SAME POSITION. IT IS THEREFORE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT INDUSTRY TESTIFY AT THIS STAGE.

5. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT THE SAME PROCEEDING AS WAS THE SUBJECT OF OUR PREVIOUS EXCHANGES OF CABLES. QUESTION AT THAT TIME WAS WHETHER DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE WOULD SUBMIT A REFERENCE TO THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY ASKING IT TO EXAMINE NEED FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AGAINST TIMBER IMPORTS. AS DESCRIBED REFTEL A, CONSIDERATION OF TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN DROPPED, OR AT LEAST PUT ON ICE, AS RESULT OF SUBMISSIONS BY EMBASSY AND OTHERS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CANBER 02062 200910Z

WHICH DEMONSTRATED THAT NORTH AMERICAN TIMBER IMPORTS WERE NOT CAUSE OF LOCAL INDUSTRY DISTRESS.

6. PRESENT HEARING IS PART OF PROCEEDINGS BY A DIFFERENT BUT RELATED BODY, INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION (IAC), TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL INDUSTRY. REFERENCE WAS SENT TO IAC IN MAY 1977, WHICH HAS BEEN STUDYING MATTER SINCE THEN. FOLLOWING APRIL 5 HEARING, IAC WILL SUBMIT ITS FINAL REPORT TO DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, WHICH WILL COORDINATE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW PRECEDING SUBMISSION OF A RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET FOR ACTION. THIS MAY BE A PROLONGED PROCESS, AND EMBASSY WILL BE MAKING U.S. VIEWS KNOWN DURING THIS PERIOD.

7. IAC DRAFT RECOMMENDATION FOR DUTY INCREASE IS OF EXTREME CONCERN BECAUSE: A. TIMBER IMPORTS ARE OF MAJOR TRADE INTEREST TO U.S.; B. GENERAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS RATHER THAN IMPORTS ARE SO UNMISTAKABLY THE CAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES OF THE LOCAL INDUSTRY; C. A FINAL IAC RECOMMENDATION FOR INCREASED TARIFF PROTECTION CONSTITUTES A DRAMATICALLY REVISED APPROACH TOWARDS PROTECTION ON PART OF IAC AND WOULD ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT THAT COULD BE APPLIED TO VIRTUALLY ANY PRODUCT IMPORTED INTO

AUSTRALIA. ACCORDINGLY, THOUGH OUTCOME OF INDUSTRY PETITION TO BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE THROUGH TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY IS A HOPEFUL SIGN, IAC RECOMMENDATION IS BY SAME TOKEN EVEN MORE UNEXPECTED AND DISCOURAGING.

8. COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS BEING PROVIDED TO AUSTRALIAN TIMBER IMPORTERS FEDERATION.

AMERICAN EMBASSY
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA.
ALSTON

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 CANBER 02062 200910Z

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER02062
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780122-0310
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA USMTN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780349/aaaaboup.tel
Line Count: 136
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a754f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CANBERRA 298, 77 CANBERRA 8603
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3272494
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS ON AUSTRALIAN TIMBER IMPORTS
TAGS: BGEN, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a754f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014